

## ***POLICY ON GENERIC TERMINOLOGY***

On November 20, 1997, Senate adopted, as its **policy on generic terminology**, the use of the double presence model in its official documentation.

### **RATIONALE**

This report and the motion are further to the President's commitment made at a Senate meeting to submit to Senate a policy on the use of generic terminology in university documentation.

In 1995, the Conseil de l'enseignement en français gave a subcommittee, chaired by C. Bernier and consisting of J. Gauthier, H. Gravel and G. Gaudreau, professors, and S. Lafortune, librarian, the following terms of reference: to study the use of generic terminology for use in the University's calendar. The Conseil believed that the University's key document on programs should reflect the fact that the majority of Francophone students are women. As follow up to the report of this subcommittee, on 30 May 1995, the Conseil adopted a policy on generic terminology for the calendar.

This policy adopts the double presence model, which promotes use of generic terms (for example, le corps professoral [faculty], la population étudiante [student population], le personnel [staff]) or the use of both genders (for example, l'étudiante and l'étudiant, l'assistant or l'assistante, le directeur or la directrice). This generic terminology model was used in the 1996-1998 calendar. It has also been used since then in documentation issued by the Conseil and the Office of the Associate Vice-President (Francophone Affairs).

The double presence model is used by the Government of Ontario. In March 1994, the Ontario Women's Directorate published an information booklet entitled *À juste titre: guide de rédaction non sexiste* [*Words that Count Women In*].

Adoption of this university policy means that this generic terminology model will be used in publications issued by Senate and its committees (minutes, official documents, calendar, pamphlets, and policy and program booklets, etc.). This policy requires the gradual replacement of existing documentation with new documents that are consistent with this generic terminology model. Senate recommends that the Board of Governors adopt the same policy, to make it the University's official policy on generic terminology.